

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for two federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states, and D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program. Currently, each state is authorized to receive \$1.75 million annually and each of D.C. and the territories are authorized to receive \$500,000 annually.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users and the extension of transit service to new communities. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

The House-passed surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these two programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide funding for effective, efficient and sustainable transportation options for D.C. in same manner as states.

CONGRATULATING SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Seton Catholic High School girls cross country team for winning the Washington state 1A championship. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to the team's 2020 and 2021 season, the team retained its competitive edge through the challenges they faced. Winning the first state championship in school history is evidence that their perseverance has paid off!

Each member of the team contributed to their team's success at the state tournament. Alexis Leone, Lara Carrion, Avery Garrison,

Sara Cordova, Virginia Carrion, and Addison Miller can all be proud of this tremendous accomplishment and cherish the memories they have made for the rest of their lives. Go Cougars.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE MANUEL CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WIDNER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Detective Manuel Christopher "Chris" Widner who passed away on August 22nd of 2021. Chris passed due to COVID-19 complications at the young age of 47. He leaves behind, in the safe keeping of God, his beautiful wife, son, and two step-daughters.

Det. Widner lived a life dedicated to the service of his family and his community. After high school, Chris started his career as a servant to the people at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Holding on to his dream to be a police officer, after 15 years with TDCJ Chris found an opportunity to serve as a local police officer. For his last 11 years, Chris served as a sworn officer of the peace for the people of Paris, Texas. Not since 1985 has the Paris Police Department had an officer fall in the line of duty, he will be greatly missed. Chris loved the Lord and knew God as a friend in this life. I am sure, through faith, that Det. Widner has heard the words "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Det. Widner's devotion to God, Country, family, and his community. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the family and friends of Det. Widner.

HONORING AMBASSADOR YURI KIM

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated career diplomat who has devoted her life to public service, Ambassador Yuri Kim.

I first met Ambassador Kim years ago when we worked together on Iraq policy. Like so many others around the world who have worked alongside her, my initial thought was one of gratitude for her contributions to our team. Ambassador Kim is a thoughtful, compassionate, and committed diplomat who can masterfully leverage her deep knowledge and her magnetic charisma to the task at hand. It's no surprise that Ambassador Kim was confirmed to her position by voice vote in the U.S. Senate—she's one of the best that our country has to offer and I'm proud to call her a friend.

In August, when dire circumstances required us to scramble and reach out to potential countries that could host our group of Afghan evacuees, Ambassador Kim jumped into the breach. Our team called the embassy in

Tirana and she personally returned our call—setting in motion a chain of events that led to more than 100 lives being saved. That we were able to cross paths in the way that we did is a testament to the power of relationships and how they can change the course of history.

All leadership starts at the top, and our embassy staff in Tirana is a powerful example of putting country over self in order to complete a mission. They are truly learning from the best, in the same way that Ambassador Kim learned from the best as a special assistant to the late Colin Powell. There are no words to express the relief and the joy that I felt after that initial call with Ambassador Kim. I—and my entire team—are forever in her debt.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ambassador Yuri Kim for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to marshal the resources and personnel of our Embassy in Tirana and for her quick and efficient actions that undoubtedly saved lives in their hour of greatest need, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

RECOGNIZING TRI-VALLEY HAVEN VOLUNTEERS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Claire Nelson and Emily Stahl, two remarkable volunteers of Tri-Valley Haven, a domestic violence shelter that creates homes safe from abuse and contributes to a more peaceful community one family at a time.

Claire Nelson, one of the founders of Tri-Valley Haven, led an amazing group of formidable women. Claire was invested in working to help women and children after her years of professional experience in the day care field. She even went as far as to take survivors into her own home until Tri-Valley Haven was able to purchase a six-bedroom shelter. Claire took pride in building Tri-Valley Haven up from behind the scenes and served on the organization's board of directors, as their treasurer, and as president.

Emily Stahl was the shelter's children's counselor who approached each child as a unique young person with dreams and ideas of their own. She worked with parents, schools, civic groups and community partners to advocate for the kids at Shiloh Shelter. Her understanding of the work was incredibly broad and infused with kindness, genius, and good humor.

Tri-Valley Haven, like many organizations in recent years, experienced ups and downs with funding and staffing; through it all, Claire and Emily continued to ensure a safe place for survivors and their families. They're part of the reason I'm honored to represent California's 15th Congressional District.

I thank Claire and Emily for their vision and dedication to providing domestic survivors safe harbor when they need it most.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
CAREY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WIN-
NING THE DIVISION VI STATE
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school football team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young men of the Carey High School football team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division VI State Football Championship tournament. The Carey Blue Devils overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Carey Blue Devils defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state football title. The Blue Devils played an impressive final game that highlighted the teamwork they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the playoffs. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Carey High School football team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GREGORY
RONALD "RON" HERRING, SR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Gregory Ronald "Ron" Herring, Sr. Ron spent his life dedicated to his family and the people of the Northern Neck. He was the kind of person who never met a stranger.

Ron graduated from Hargrave Military Academy in 1968 and went on to apprentice and graduate from Newport News Ship Building in 1972. He met the love of his life, Linda Lee, and they were married on March 14, 1970. Together they started the Home Crafters in 1987 where they erected more than 300 homes and completed countless renovations.

Throughout his life, Ron was very involved with the Morattico Baptist Church, the Northumberland County Republican Committee, the Northern Neck Home Builders Association, and the Northumberland County school system. Ron was also an avid outdoorsman with a deep love for the Northern Neck's waters. He enjoyed spending his time fishing, boating, and advocating for commercial and sport fishermen.

Ron is survived by his wife and sweetheart, Linda; sister, Georgena Herring Strawderman; daughters, Angela (Shawn) Clarke and Sara

Bishop; son, Greg (Shannon) Herring; grandchildren Madison, Bobby and Jacob Clarke, Luke and McKenna Dooley, and Danielle Thompson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me and countless others as we recognize the life of Gregory Ronald Herring, Sr.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT VETERAN SUICIDE

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Operation Iron Ruck, an event led by the University of Alabama and Auburn University's Student Veteran Associations to raise awareness of the critical issue of veteran suicide. Operation Iron Ruck is held every year ahead of the Iron Bowl, the classic football game where the Auburn University Tigers face off against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Unfortunately, each day, twenty-two veterans and active-duty service members take their lives. To raise awareness of this tragedy, Operation Iron Ruck participants hike 151 miles from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, all the way to Auburn. Participants carry twenty-two pounds of gear to represent each of those fallen warfighters.

Once at Auburn, the items inside the rucks are then donated to Alabama State Veteran homes and to Three Hots and A Cot, a non-profit organization committed to securing housing for veterans in need. Additionally, over \$5,000 was raised this year to further support these organizations and other support groups, such as Mission 22 and the student veterans' associations of both universities.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to every American who has ever worn a uniform in military service of our great nation to honor their sacrifices and ensure that they never face a scenario where they falsely believe their last option is to tragically take their own life. As a country, may we renew our dedication to these men and women and care for those who have put their own lives on the line for our liberty and safety. Let this commemoration forever be preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States, and may the world never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

HONORING MARTHA BARRA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in recognition of the 80th birthday of Martha Barra and her lifetime of work building the Barra family wine business of Mendocino County into an industry leader in sustainable, organic wine production.

Born on December 14, 1941, Martha's career in the wine industry began in 1980, when she married the late Charlie Barra, a trail-

blazer in Mendocino County's early wine industry. Under the stewardship of Martha and Charlie Barra, Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards broke new ground, setting the standard for ecologically friendly wine grape growing and wine making techniques, and becoming leaders in Mendocino County's nascent environmentally conscious 'green' wine industry.

Martha Barra learned the wine business from the inside out, exploring ecologically conscious agriculture and production methods long before these practices were well known. She went on to directly manage the winery's organic certification process herself for nearly 30 years. Today, all of the grapes grown on the 325 acre Barra vineyard in Mendocino County's inland valley are 100 percent certified organic. Thanks to her pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture, close to 25 percent of the vineyards in Mendocino County are also certified organic.

Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards remains an independent, family-owned and operated business under Martha Barra's leadership. As the matriarch of a multi-talented family, Barra employed the skills of her adult children to continue to elevate the business. Today, her son and daughter assist her in growing nine different varietals, producing and marketing two wine brands, operating a 2.8 million gallon custom crush facility, and running a uniquely charming events center located along Highway 101.

Originally designed to look like an inverted wine glass, the 5,000 square foot Barra Winery Event Center hosts private events enjoyed by both Mendocino County residents and visitors from near and far. The Barra Winery Event Center reflects Martha Barra's community-minded values by also providing a uniquely beautiful space for fundraising opportunities to support local nonprofits, and her Barra of Mendocino donates to a range of charitable organizations, with a special dedication toward causes of promoting and supporting the needs of children, cancer research, awareness, and patient support and improving our local community.

In the face of changing and challenging times including the COVID-19 pandemic, Martha Barra has led the family business to continue to prosper, offering COVID-safe wine tasting to guests at their winery, as well as virtual tasting events and wine distribution in 35 states and several countries.

Martha Barra currently spends most of her time overseeing the vineyard operations, doing local tastings and events, working with the winemakers to set flavor profiles, and managing the organic certification processes. At wine events, she is known fondly for handing out shiny stickers of bees, representing her commitment to the importance of sustainable agriculture. From learning the intricacies of organic wine production, to food and wine pairing, studying architecture and remodeling houses, Martha Barra is a person of many talents.

Martha Barra's enduring commitment to protecting the environment and the people of Mendocino County, while also producing premier, award-winning wine, is remarkable and a benefit to the region. Madam Speaker, please join us in recognizing Martha Barra for her many contributions and wishing her a wonderful birthday.